

U S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
 Soper Avenue Groundwater Site - Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
 Region V

**Subject:** POLREP #3  
 Ongoing Work  
 Soper Avenue Groundwater Site  
 C595  
 Rockford, IL  
 Latitude: 42.2882979 Longitude: -89.1241901

**To:** Carol Fuller, IEPA  
 Mark Wagner, IEPA  
 Sue Fuller, Winnebago County Health Dept.  
 Clay Simonson, IDPH  
 Dave Retzlaff, IEPA  
 Maggie Carson, IEPA  
 Brian Kelly, Section 2  
 Tim Holdeman, Rockford Water Dept.

**From:** Bradley Benning, OSC

**Date:** 2/24/2012

**Reporting Period:** 1/7/2012 to 2/24/2012

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

<b>Site Number:</b>	C595	<b>Contract Number:</b>	EP-S5-09-05
<b>D.O. Number:</b>	Task Order 86	<b>Action Memo Date:</b>	1/10/2012
<b>Response Authority:</b>	CERCLA	<b>Response Type:</b>	Time-Critical
<b>Response Lead:</b>	EPA	<b>Incident Category:</b>	Removal Action
<b>NPL Status:</b>	Non NPL	<b>Operable Unit:</b>	
<b>Mobilization Date:</b>	2/21/2012	<b>Start Date:</b>	10/19/2011
<b>Demob Date:</b>		<b>Completion Date:</b>	
<b>CERCLIS ID:</b>	ILN000510656	<b>RCRIS ID:</b>	
<b>ERNS No.:</b>		<b>State Notification:</b>	LPC#2012085009
<b>FPN#:</b>		<b>Reimbursable Account #:</b>	

#### 1.1.1 Incident Category

Time-Critical Removal Action

#### 1.1.2 Site Description

Benzene contamination and other chemicals typical found in fuels such as gasoline were discovered in private wells in June 2011 on Soper Avenue and Alliance Avenue north of Auburn Street and west of Central Avenue in the northwest portion of Rockford.

Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) worked together to collect samples from private wells in the area on three occasions during June, August and September after being informed of fuel-like odors from private well water. Contaminants discovered in some private wells are from a family of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are commonly found in fuels such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel. The most recent set of well water samples was taken on September 14, 2011. Twenty-five wells have been tested in all, some more than once.

The state and county health departments' primary role is to insure that people who have private wells are aware of the risks associated with using the groundwater. The two agencies have been interpreting private well test results the past three months and explaining to well users any potential health implications. Illinois EPA's role is to investigate the source or sources of the groundwater contamination to determine whether the source or sources can be cleaned up or effectively stopped from contributing to groundwater contamination. The agencies are working together to determine the extent of any risk to public health and the source(s) of the contamination.

Illinois EPA is requesting assistance from U.S. EPA to provide alternative drinking water supplies for residential homes that have exceeded MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Level) for benzene.

#### **1.1.2.1 Location**

The Area of Concern (AOC) is located in the Northwest side of Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. After the initial notification to Winnebago Health Dept. concerning odors in private wells, the County held an informational meeting with the Illinois Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) for residents to gather information on contamination and sign up for testing. Based on sampling results the scope of the area has been limited to private wells in the area of Johnston Avenue to the West; Alliance Avenue to the East; Auburn Street to the South; and Parkside Avenue to the North.

#### **1.1.2.2 Description of Threat**

Currently four residents in the AOC exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Benzene of 5 ppb, with the highest level detected of 1300 ppb. Exposure to benzene at the levels found in the area private wells over long periods of time may lead to disorders of the blood and bone marrow system, such as anemia, and may increase the lifetime risk of cancer.

#### **1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Winnebago County Health Department and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) worked together to collect samples from private wells in the area on three occasions during June, August and September after being informed of fuel-like odors from private well water. Contaminants discovered in some private wells are from a family of chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are commonly found in fuels such as gasoline, diesel and home heating fuel. The most recent set of well water samples was taken on September 14, 2011. Twenty-five wells have been tested in all, some more than once.

Current assessment results indicate that four residents exceed the MCL for benzene of 5 ppb. Additionally, other VOCs were detected including Ethyl Benzene, Xylene, Toluene. IEPA is continuing their investigation to determine the potential source of the contamination, with the installation of various monitoring wells to determine groundwater direction, and potential contaminant sources.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

#### **2.1.1 Narrative**

IEPA continues their field investigation, installing approximately 3 monitoring wells in the AOC, and sampling additional locations which may be potential sources, and residents that are experiencing water concerns.

EPA conducted a vapor intrusion assessment to determine if the level of contaminants in the

groundwater are potentially impacting residences due to vapor intrusion pathway

### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

EPA continues to provide bottled until all affected homes have been connected to City water

Contractor bids were received and evaluated by EPA. Stenstrom Excavating was awarded the work based on experience and cost.

EPA completed the Action Memo, which was signed on 1/10/2012.

On 2/2/2012, EPA met with the City and subcontractors to scheduled and coordinate the connection work. The plumbing contractor had started to meet with homeowners to discuss the work, answer questions, and arrange times to begin construction.

On 2/21/2012, the contractor started work, and anticipated connecting 3-4 homes per day. The directional drilling company would install the water line, then the plumbing company would follow behind and complete the connection inside the home. As of 2/24/2012, 14 homes have had water lines installed, and 12 homes have had the interior plumbing completed. Work will continue next week to complete the remaining homes.

One homeowner on Auburn St. initially declined the connection to City water; but has agreed to be connected, the City will need to install the b-box valve next week and connection is anticipated by the end of next week.

An additional homeowner on Johnston was anticipating connection, but the City has not installed the b-box valves on that side of the street, the well had low levels of contaminants below MCL levels and therefore does not justify the extra expense to connect this home. An offer to provide a carbon filtration system is pending.

### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

The IEPA investigation may lead to Potentially Responsible Parties as the source of the contamination.

### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

Not Applicable

<i>Waste Stream</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Manifest #</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	<i>Disposal</i>

## 2.2 Planning Section

### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

EPA will continue connection work and anticipates completion by 3/2/2012.

#### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

Conduct indoor air sampling at the home on Alliance which exceeded the sub-slab screening level for PCE.

Continue to investigate vapor intrusion issues as necessary.

Continue to work with IEPA on future site investigation work.

Complete connections of residents to public water supply, complete private well closures, and finish all interior plumbing.

#### **2.2.1.2 Next Steps**

Continue to communicate with homeowner which declined city water connection

Communicate with homeowner on Johnston regarding installation of whole-house carbon unit.

Continue to work with IEPA on source investigation.

IEPA will continue investigation at the Citgo Station, attempting to identify location and extent of release at the former tank pit.

#### **2.2.2 Issues**

Working with one resident which refused connection to City water.

### **2.3 Logistics Section**

Task Order has been issued to Environmental Restoration to perform the Removal Action. Bids have been received from three local plumbing contractors. Selected contractor will provide all personnel and equipment to complete the scope of work.

Stenstrom Excavating was awarded the contract, and will be utilizing Pearson Plumbing and Kirby Cable

### **2.4 Finance Section**

#### **2.4.1 Narrative**

Current Removal Action is funded for \$152,500 to provide bottled water and to perform the anticipated water connections. Action Memo was signed 1/10/2012

### **2.5 Other Command Staff**

#### **2.5.1 Safety Officer**

ATSDR is currently assisting with the removal action providing input on health concerns

#### **2.5.2 Liaison Officer**

Not Applicable

#### **2.5.3 Information Officer**

Cheryl Allen is the CIC, and is working with the Local, State and County personnel. A Fact Sheet has currently been distributed. The Availability Session was held on Dec 5, 2010. A CIP is being drafted for the Site.

### **3. Participating Entities**

#### **3.1 Unified Command**

U.S. EPA, IEPA, IDPH and Winnebago Health will comprise the Unified Command

#### **3.2 Cooperating Agencies**

ATSDR  
City of Rockford

### **4. Personnel On Site**

OSC - 1  
Weston - 1  
ERRS - 1  
Stenstrom - 3  
Pearson Plumbing - 3  
Kirby Drilling - 2

**5. Definition of Terms**

No information available at this time

**6. Additional sources of information**

**6.1 Internet location of additional information/report**

[www.epaosc.net/SoperAvenueGroundwater](http://www.epaosc.net/SoperAvenueGroundwater)

[sfuller@wchd.gov](mailto:sfuller@wchd.gov)

[carol.fuller@illinois.gov](mailto:carol.fuller@illinois.gov)

[allen.cheryl@epa.gov](mailto:allen.cheryl@epa.gov)

**6.2 Reporting Schedule**

Anticipate weekly SitReps

**7. Situational Reference Materials**

Northwest Rockford Area of Fuel Contaminated Groundwater Fact Sheet